IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 2, please replace the paragraph extending from lines 6-14 with the following:

Most commercial auctioneers require the user to become a member before the user can make a first bid. The user typically must provide current shipping and billing information -- including a credit card number. Once registered, the user obtains the site's customization and bidding tools, and the user uses a user ID and password to bid. If you, the user, makes the highest bid, the price of the goods (plus the cost of shipping) is charged to the user's credit card.

On page 3, please replace the paragraph extending from lines 8-23 with the following:

However, although these procedures may help to protect against fraud, the purchaser is often unable to determine whether the items listed for auction specifically match the items that the purchaser desires to purchase. This problem of unambiguously determining the identity and type of item that is listed for sale is not unique to on-line auctions but [[also]] is also a problem for internet want ads. For example, a purchaser might wish to purchase a specific PCMCIA Modem, but the information contained on the on-line auction or want ad site does not uniquely identify the item listed for sale although it does specify that the item is a PCMCIA Modem. Therefore, a method, system, and computer program product that allows a seller and a purchaser to be matched up wherein the purchaser is able to unambiguously determine that the item is the correct item would be desirable.

On page 8, please replace the paragraph extending from lines 14-27 with the following:

Referring to **Figure 2**, a block diagram of a data processing system that may be implemented as a server, such as server **104** in **Figure 1**, is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Data processing system **200** may be a symmetric multiprocessor (SMP) system including a plurality of processors **202** and **204**

connected to system bus **206**. Alternatively, a single processor system may be employed. Also connected to system bus **206** is memory controller/cache **208**, which provides an interface to local memory **209**. I/O [[bus]] bridge **210** is connected to system bus **206** and provides an interface to I/O bus **212**. Memory controller/cache **208** and I/O [[bus]] bridge **210** may be integrated as depicted.

On page 10, please replace the paragraph extending from lines 2-27 with the following:

With reference now to **Figure 3**, a block diagram illustrating a data processing system is depicted in which the present invention may be implemented. Data processing system **300** is an example of a client computer. Data processing system **300** employs a peripheral component interconnect (PCI) local bus architecture. Although the depicted example employs a PCI bus, other bus architectures such as Accelerated Graphics Port (AGP) and Industry Standard Architecture (ISA) may be used. Processor **302** and main memory **304** are connected to ~~PCI local~~ bus **306**, which is a PCI local bus, through PCI bridge **308**. PCI bridge **308** also may include an integrated memory controller and cache memory for processor **302**. Additional connections to ~~PCI local~~ bus **306** may be made through direct component interconnection or through add-in boards. In the depicted example, local area network (LAN) adapter **310**, SCSI host bus adapter **312**, and expansion bus interface **314** are connected to ~~PCI local~~ bus **306** by direct component connection. In contrast, audio adapter **316**, graphics adapter **318**, and audio/video adapter **319** are connected to ~~PCI local~~ bus **306** by add-in boards inserted into expansion slots. Expansion bus interface **314** provides a connection for a keyboard and mouse adapter **320**, modem **322**, and additional memory **324**. Small computer system interface (SCSI) host bus adapter **312** provides a connection for [[hard]] disk [[drive]] **326**, which denotes a hard disk drive, tape drive **328**, and CD-ROM drive **330**.

On page 11, please replace the paragraph extending from lines 3-17 with the following:

An operating system runs on processor **302** and is used to coordinate and provide control of various components within data processing system **300** in **Figure 3**. The

operating system may be a commercially available operating system, such as Windows 2000, which is available from Microsoft Corporation. An object oriented programming system such as [[Java]] <u>JAVA</u> may run in conjunction with the operating system and provide calls to the operating system from [[Java]] <u>JAVA</u> programs or applications executing on data processing system **300**. "[[Java]] <u>JAVA</u>" is a trademark of Sun Microsystems, Inc. Instructions for the operating system, the object-oriented operating system, and applications or programs are located on storage devices, such as hard disk drive **326**, and may be loaded into main memory **304** for execution by processor **302**.

On page 14, please delete the paragraph that begins at line 8 (and which was previously replaced in the preliminary amendment) and replace with the following paragraph:

With reference now to **Figure 5**, a flowchart illustrating an exemplary process for matching a seller and a buyer of goods or services wherein the goods and services are uniquely identified is depicted in accordance with the present invention. Once an on-line site receives information from a user for an offer to buy or sell a particular good (step **502**), the on-line auction or want ad site stores the user's buy or sell information in a database (step **504**). The on-line auction or want ad site also determines the ~~quantity , type,~~ <u>quantity,</u> <u>type,</u> unique identifier, and desired price of the item (step **505**) and searches the database for a seller or buyer, as the case may be, that is a match (step **506**). The match would match a buyer desiring a certain good with a certain unique identifier with a seller selling the same good with the same unique identifier. The on-line site, in determining a match, also determines that the two offers are both valid as determined by time constraints that may have been placed on each offer by the buyer or seller.

Please replace the paragraph extending from page 15, line 11 through page 16, line 8 with the following:

<u>A test is then performed to determine if a match was found (step **508**).</u> If no match is found between a buyer and a seller for the received offer, then the offer information is

left logged in the database until a match is found at a later time or until purged from the database because the terms of the offer have expired (step **514**). If a match is found, then the on-line site sends a notice to both the buyer and seller notifying them of the match and modifies or removes the buyer and seller information to reflect the transaction (step **510**). The offer information for both the buyer and seller may be modified or removed immediately when the notice is sent to each or the information may be kept, but with a flag indicating a pending transaction until notice is received from the buyer and seller confirming the transaction. If the offer information is immediately modified or removed, if the transaction later fails, the information may be reinstated with notice from the buyer and/or seller. If there is a dispute over the transaction, the buyer and seller may be required to submit to an arbitration procedure and the lower required to execute the sale or purchase of the same product at the price agreed to in the offer after the dispute is resolved. Shipping charges may be split by the buyer and seller or may be paid by only one of the parties to the transaction. The on-line site then may charge a fee for providing a match to either the buyer or seller or both (step **512**).